

# World Rainforest Report

No. 5

Feb. 1986

## Editors Note:

Here is World Rainforest Report #5 (WRR). It was compiled by the Rainforest Action Network in the U.S. Our formerly published "Rainforest Action Network News" has merged with WRR. I am editing this issue since John Seed is traveling in India and hugging trees with the hardcore grassroots activists there. In the World Rainforest Report #6 we will report on the full page advertisement in the New York Times that urged Burger King to stop buying rainforest beef.

Editor-Randall Hayes.

Associate Editors-Mike Roselle, Charles Secrett, & John Seed. Staff-Steve Cowan, Sandra Kaiser, Erik van Lennep & Ian Peter. Thanks to Dave Foreman, John Davis, Earth First! Foundation, & Karen Jackson at Typografx.

—Randy Hayes

Rainforest Action Network and Earth First!, in conjunction with the Rainforest Information Centre, and Friends of the Earth UK, will be publishing the World Rainforest Report (subscriptions are \$10.00 for 4 issues, free where possible to NGOs who can't afford this) to coordinate rainforest related information and actions worldwide. This network now consists of several hundred groups around the world committed to protection of the rainforests. Please write to us for addresses of network participants in your region and a sample issue of the World Rainforest Report.

Contact: Rainforest Action Network  
466 Green Street, Suite 300 San Francisco, CA 94133 USA

Contact: John Seed, Rainforest Information Centre,  
P.O. Box 368, Lismore, NSW 2480, Australia.

Contact: Charles Secrett,  
Friends of the Earth 377 City Road, London, EC1, UK.

## Hawaiian Chainsaw Massacre

### Virgin Forests Cut

#### for Cheap Power

By: Erik van Lennep, Rainforest Action Network

In the most recent onslaught of commercialism on the Hawaiian environment, American Factors corporation (AmFac), Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO), Bio Power Corporation, the Campbell Estate, and the county and state governments have all teamed up to convert the Big Island's most important native rainforest into cheap power. To date, about 1,500 acres of the estate's 3,300 acre tract of ohia forest have been chipped as biomass to fuel electric generators at a defunct sugar refinery. Six to seven acres per day, yielding an average of 500 tons of native hardwoods are consumed to fulfill AmFac's contract with HELCO. Since closing the Puna refinery meant an end to cane production, and thereby the bagasse used to fuel the power plant, AmFac started a new outfit, Puna Biomass Co., to purchase wood chips in order to continue production of electricity contracted to HELCO. Now, Bio Power Corp., a mainland company enters the picture. Initially chipping eucalyptus, they cleared a 240 acre tract near Hilo, then moved on to irreplaceable primary native rainforest on land owned by the Campbell Estate above Kalapana Black Sand Beach. According to state foresters, they disdained to harvest more eucalyptus, even those planted precisely for that purpose by the state (and even subsidised through death of native forests and use of taxpayers' money) within a few miles of the Kea'au power plant. They left the Hilo tract naked to the forces of erosion, posing a serious flood threat to the city of Hilo when the rains begin. Contrary to the grandiose proclamations of massive replanting for future harvests made by Bio Power officers, not a single seedling has been planted.



The Kalapana forest is considered to be the finest primary lowland forests remaining in Hawaii.

In fact, Bio Power and AmFac have no intention of replanting any fuel woods after they have stripped the Campbell Estate. AmFac has its sights on more native forests, while the Campbell Estate intends to convert the land to pasture. Zoned by the state as agricultural land, the property will increase in value, as measured by a twisted standard which values degraded environments over productive and intact ecosystems. In addition, by running cattle on the land, the estate can claim it as low grade pasture, thereby reducing the taxes on it.

Ohi'a (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) is a native hardwood of the myrtle family, reaching to 100 feet high. Many of the trees on the Campbell Estate are several hundred years old, making them one of the oldest stands in an area where volcanic eruptions periodically destroy wide swaths of forest. The Kalapana tract is considered to be the finest primary lowland rainforest remaining on Hawaii. It contains a broad range of ohia subspecies which complement each other in natural succession. They constitute a valuable seed reserve for recolonizing new lava flows. The site

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## FOE UK Gets Tough

By Charles Secrett

On May 9th, FOE-UK launched a major international campaign to help stop the destruction of tropical rainforests, considered the planet's richest natural resource. At a FOE-UK press conference in London, Jonathon Porritt, FOE-UK Director said, "The launch of FOE's Campaign marks the start of a global effort to protect the rainforests. Tropical rainforests touch everyone's lives. Every high street in Britain sells products originating in the rainforest. Coffee, bananas, and rubber are everyday items which connect us with these irreplaceable forests thousands of miles away. Future developments in agriculture, medicine, and industry will depend

on the genetic resources presently available from tropical rainforest species, which are being destroyed daily. This will be the most ambitious environmental campaign ever undertaken by a voluntary campaigning organization. We must win it or risk losing everything."

The focus of the UK campaign will be to persuade consumers not to buy tropical hardwood products which come from ecologically destructive timber operations; to convince the UK hardwood timber industry to adopt a Code of Conduct which will encourage the sustainable use of tropical forests and prevent their unnecessary destruction; and finally, to change government aid policies

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## Conference Fires Up Global Network

By Sandra Kaiser

With participants coming from as far as Europe and Asia and as near as San Francisco, key rainforest activists met in a secluded area north of San Francisco last fall to hammer out strategies to save the most diverse and fragile ecosystems on earth. Preserving Hawaiian rainforests, stopping the monstrous Indonesian transmigration project, and persuading the World Bank to stop funding massive deforestation projects will be the focus of those strategies.

Hawaiian rainforests are among the most endangered on the planet, with developers lobbying to tap their geothermal resources. The government of Indonesia, in a replay of Brazil's disastrous Amazonia scheme, wants to strip forests and resettle millions of homeless Indonesians on delicate rainforest soil that won't be able to support them. And the World Bank is helping Third World governments fund these kind of deforestation projects.

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also represents an unusual juxtaposition of many different successional stages, rarely found in other tropical rainforests, thus making the Hawaiian lowland rainforests unique. The ohia are the dominant species, providing the dynamic framework upon which many other life forms depend, including the Hawaiian hawk, or 'Io (*Buteo solitarius*). The ohia rainforest is in fact, a vital shield between Hawaii's few remaining native plants and animals, and extinction. Furthermore, the location of the Kalapana ohia forest serves as a valuable buffer for the adjacent state forest reserve, and state park. The relative stability of a mature ohia community against intrusion by exotic plants and animals protects those endemics which depend on isolation for survival. So critical is this relationship, that Hawaii has long served as a textbook example of the fragility of island ecosystems to invasion by introduced species, with resultant extinction of the natives.

The ohia forest's value goes beyond its ability to shelter and maintain indigenous species, to provide a reservoir for recovery of growth after volcanic activity, and as a unique tropical community for scientific study. In an area dependent on tourism as a major source of income, the continuation of native ecosystems provides a direct and obvious service as a magnet for visitors. It is sufficiently important that the U.S. Forest Service spent \$300,000 - \$400,000 per year during the 1970's to study dieback in ohia forests. During the Hawaii International Biological program from 1971-76, over \$1.5 million was spent studying the evolution and resilience of native biological systems. Obviously, there is a conflict of interest of considerable magnitude where millions of dollars are spent to document the importance of a forest which is then summarily ground into chips to line a few corporate pockets.

An investigation into the machinations leading to the ohia forest destruction reveals a host of interrelated factors. Other than the contract between AmFac and HELCO, there is the state tax structure, which makes deforested land worth more than land left intact, and allows additional tax benefits for further degrading the soils by raising cattle, so that it can be declared second rate pasture. Although the net worth of continuing operation of large sugar refineries is arguable, the closing of the Puna plant left an employment vacuum. The people of that area cannot be overly faulted for seeking work with the

chippers, although this offers only short term relief, as the jobs will end as the last tracts of rainforest are consumed. An additional factor is the Hawaii state legislature which characteristically defeats any move to list native organisms as endangered, so not to tie up land in reserves unavailable to developers. Somehow, although there are many links in the chain capable of injecting some sanity into biomass production, although the value and necessity of preservation of the native forests is clear, the destruction continues unabated, and with scant opposition. Even the Hawaii Nature Conservancy is remaining studiously out of the way. As a testimony to the non-sustainability of Bio Power's insatiable appetite for irreplaceable rainforests, or perhaps due to their quick-profit corporate approach to non-planning, Bio Power has declared bankruptcy and exited in a cloud of sawdust. However, a new outfit has reared its head, like a hydra, to take its place. Island Forest Resources, Inc. is the name of the group, which is thus far, only consuming exotic trees. As we have seen already, this is no guarantee of security under the current development oriented government and tax structure. A few are fighting to save the forests but they need help. Friends of Hawaii's Forests are planning to place an Initiative Ordinance on the fall County Ballot, to ban conversion of native species to electricity. They need funds in order to launch their campaign, especially in the face of AmFac's promise to "bury" them with an even larger media campaign.

According to Dieter Mueller-Dombois, a University of Hawaii botanist and advocate for Hawaii's native forests, the environmental pressure has begun to be felt, and at this juncture the Campbell Estate is reconsidering its original plan for some of the pasture area. They have contracted Prof. Dombois to conduct a feasibility study for reestablishing native trees over some of the chipped area. The latest twist though, is that the Campbell Estate is negotiating a land swap with the state, which although providing protection from geothermal development (Campbell's next megaventure) at the upper reaches of the border between parkland and estate holdings, will hand over a fresh section of hitherto untouched forest to the (in)descretion of private development. In return, the park gets a tract of chipped landscape. Part of the land in question is now under the Puna Natural Reserve. There is some possibility that Campbell



One of the many waterfalls that grace the Hawaiian rainforest.

can be persuaded to make a philanthropic gesture of donating the new parcel containing Natural Reserve lands to the University for research. This is however only a possibility, and under its current status as state-owned Natural Reserve, the land would enjoy more certainty of continued protection. The land swap is still under consideration in the state legislature, so it is not too late to apply some persuasive pressure. There are many unresolved questions at stake here, not the least of which is the Campbell Estate's poor record of stewardship over the state's natural heritage. There is no indication that they will exercise any more caution over geothermal development's impacts than they were with the ohia rainforest.

People to write:

\*Gov. George Ariyoshi (he is pro-development, but gives lip-service to environmental interests)

\*Don Heinzen, at AmFac (Incidentally, AmFac also owns a prestigious chain of clothing stores: Liberty House. This could serve as a pressure point.)

\*Congressman C. Heftel, Hawaii.

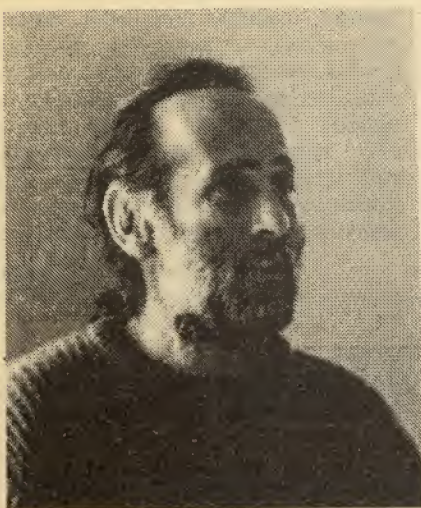
\*Senators Inoue, and Matsunaga, Hawaii

\*Campbell Estate (they have demonstrated a modicum of responsiveness, if not conscience)

\*Friends of Hawaii Rainforests P.O. Box 153 Hilo, Hawaii 96720

\*Rainforest Action Network 466 Green Street, Suite 300 San Francisco, CA 94133

## John Seed's Travalog



John Seed

photo by David Cross

### FROM INDIA--

"Between the San Francisco conference of the Rainforest Action Network, and the start of our Indian tour, I spent three weeks in the US, England, and West Germany, giving presentations in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich, and Hamburg. Since arriving in India, we've made some great connections. For example:

\* "One of the six presentations that we gave in New Delhi was to the Society for the Promotion of Wasteland Development. Between one-half and one-third of the land area of India is degraded in some way, and this society is involved in tree planting and other schemes. At our meeting it was proposed that a group get together in New Delhi, to

represent the rainforest issue, and to represent those groups in south India working for their own rainforest. These groups are struggling for the preservation of the remaining rainforests in the states of Kerala and Karnataka, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

\* "In Jaipur, one of the presentations was to the Rajasthan Adult Education Centre, which provides educational materials to more than 30,000 centres throughout this state of 25 million people. We screened "Give Trees a Chance" (the film about successful non-violent actions against the destruction of the rainforest in New South Wales, Australia), and they requested video copies of the film, along with other ecological materials to use in their film.

\* "In Ahmedabad, where the Adult Education Centre distributes environmental education packages to some 500 publications, 300 NGOs, and 1,000 nature clubs throughout India, we achieved similar results. In addition, I was interviewed by Professor Rohit Shukla, for the national educational television program.

"In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, we ran into our old friends, Levers, once again, once again engaged in rainforest destruction for fast profit. Unilever is one of the world's largest multinationals, with an annual turnover of more than fifteen thousand million dollars. They produce a wide range of consumer products, including brands such as Rinso, Surf, Omo, Lux, John West Salmon, Bird's Eye frozen foods, Lipton's Tea, etc., etc. They are based in the UK, and the Netherlands, while trading in more than 100 countries.



"Their subsidiary, Lever's Pacific Timbers, scalped much of the Solomon Islands, including the island of Kolombangara, one of the only two places in the Solomons noted by the IUCN as indicative for World Heritage listing. The only part of this island remaining intact, is that saved by the inhabitants

of Iri village, by physically blockading the bulldozers attempting to enter their land. Similarly, in neighboring New Georgia, they devastated the forests with no regard for soil or water. Finally, the members of the Koroga tribe demolished their logging town, Barora, along with cranes, bulldozers, etc. It was after this, at the request of the Koroga tribe, that the Rainforest Information Centre became involved, and began to let people know about Lever's activities.

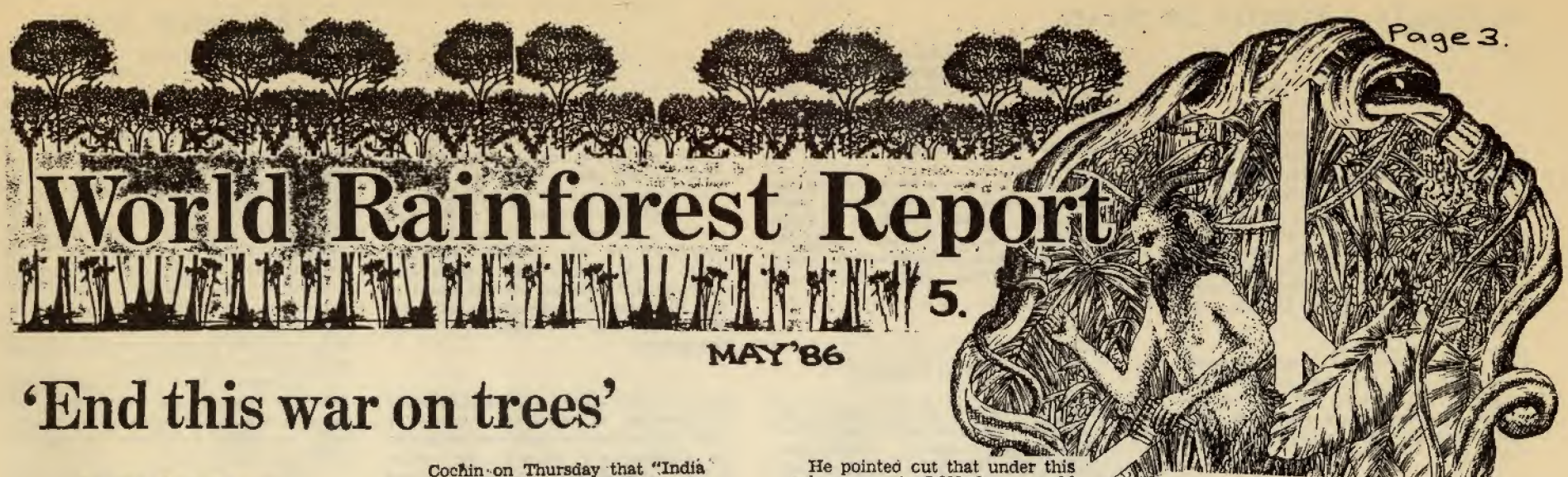
"Now, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a subsidiary firm, Hindustan Lever, plans to destroy 100 square kilometers of lowland tropical rainforest to establish another of their oil palm plantations. These islands contain 2,200 of India's 15,000 species of flowering plants, including approximately 1,500 which remain in existence only here.

"Our experience in the Solomon Islands suggests that Lever's is one company that is relatively easy to influence, and we are including the story of Lever's in the Solomons in our presentations in India. They are highly sensitive to consumer pressure because of the high profile of many of their products. Sources in the Solomon Islands say that within a short time of our publication of Lever's vandalism there, they instituted forest management policies that offered some degree of protection, and the royalties paid to the villagers increased by 1,000%. It might then be possible to exercise the same persuasion over their activities in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, while simultaneously raising the issue in India and elsewhere."

Free the Earth, John Seed

ed note: John Seed will continue to report on his travels in these pages.





# World Rainforest Report

5.

MAY '86

## 'End this war on trees'

By Our Staff Reporter

"The third world war has begun. It is waged against the earth".

This was how Mr Patrick Anderson, a visiting environmentalist from Australia, described the wanton destruction of evergreen forests going on in different parts of the world.

Mr Anderson, who is now touring various parts of Kerala meeting the local environmentalists, academicians and Government officials, cautioned during a chat with newsmen in

Cochin on Thursday that "India has less than five years to protect her evergreen forests".

Only four areas of rain forest remain of the once-mighty jungles of India - Western Ghats, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. At the present rate of destruction, all four of the remaining core areas will be degraded beyond repair in less than five years.

He pointed out that rain forests in India are so diverse, so complex that a few hectares of Andamans forest contain more species of trees than the whole of northern Europe. Extensive areas must be preserved in one block or else these sensitive systems will begin to break down.

Not only is the forest cover declining, but the plantations cannot perform the many biosphere functions of the native forests. These include the maintenance and regulation of soils, the control of the hydrological cycle and the availability of fresh water, the production of oxygen and regulation of climate etc.

While the remaining forest cover of India is declining at an alarming rate, the area subject to flooding doubled from 2 lakh sq. km. to 4 lakh sq. km. during the last decade. This is because the forests and soils that they protect store the rain when it falls and release it slowly throughout the year in perennial streams. With the forest cover destroyed, the waters flood down to the plains as soon as the rain falls. And this is soon followed by drought.

Mr. Anderson said the World Rain Forest Action Network, an organisation of environmental groups from around the world, has decided to bring pressure on the World Bank to stop funding the controversial Narmada dam scheme which he described as a "vast ecological disaster in the making".

He pointed out that under this scheme, up to 3,000 dams would be constructed within the watershed of the Narmada, the last densely forested watershed in the country resulting in the destruction of the ecology of the area and the displacement of over a million people, mainly tribals. One dam alone, the Narmada Sagar, would flood over 500 sq. km of precious native forest cover.

Mr. Anderson noted with satisfaction that the "rain forest lobby" has of late become active in many countries. Conservationists stopped the destruction of the Silent Valley rain forest.

Talking about Kerala, he said he was amazed to see the massive encroachment on forest land. But the fact that there is a strong political lobby supporting the forest encroachers in the State seemed to have passed his attention.

He felt that little effort is made to ensure people's participation in the implementation of the social forestry scheme of the State Government. For instance, he said he was told that a sum of over Rs. 11 lakh was expended for planting saplings in Attappadi tribal belt in Palghat district under the social forestry scheme.

But during his visit to the place, he could see that not even a handful of saplings said to have been planted there had survived. He said as a first step people who are the ultimate beneficiaries of such programmes would have to be properly educated about their importance if such programmes are to be implemented with success.

Indian Express  
Cochin 1.3.86

## STOP RAINFOREST LOGGING

"Economic Use of Tropical Moist Forests" by Dr. J Davidson et al, Members of the Working Group on Tropical Moist Forests of the IUCN Commission on Ecology, Commission on Ecology Papers # 9, IUCN, 1196 Gland, Switzerland.:

"The conclusion must be that only tourism, collection of seeds for cultivation elsewhere, and properly managed scientific research fully suit the criterion of renewability. Also hunting-gathering, if no products are taken out of the forest for trade, seems likely to be fully sustainable. Collection of minor forest products seems sustainable for considerable periods, if done expertly and with moderation. It cannot be regarded as truly sustainable, but, as a form of exploitation for the modern market, it is far better in harmony with the character of the forest than any form of timber utilization. All the other, heavier forms of exploitation must be expected to result in interference with ecological processes including losses of genetic diversity. Primary tropical moist forests subjected to them can be written off as such for the future, because modification reduces them to simplified, moist forest-derived systems."

Discussions and Conclusions, p24.

This is the most important paper that has come our way for a long time. It is available from IUCN at the above address or from the Rainforest Information Centre for \$2 (the cost of photocopying and postage.)

### Page 3 "Editors Note"

You will no doubt have noticed that the editor of this issue, Randy Hayes of the Rainforest Action Centre San Francisco, in keeping with the ancient World Rainforest Report Tradition, has a three month old date on the masthead. While waiting excitedly for 1000 copies of Randy's excellent Report (i.e. pages 1,2,7 and 8 of this newsletter) we at Lismore couldn't help but put these four pages together.

We are hoping that future WRR'S will be jointly edited in San Francisco, London and here via computer linkup. We are hoping that this means that the date on the masthead will closely correspond with the date that you receive your copy.

As you can see, lots of work is being done on a shoestring. SEND MONEY! We have untold requests for information from schoolkids, trainee teachers as well as everyone else. Its important that the right info gets out. HELP!

### FROM INDIA- continued---

John Seed and Patrick Anderson of the Rainforest Information Centre have just returned from India where they spent three months travelling the length and breadth of that country by train showing the Terania film, "Give Trees a Chance" to Indian ecology groups. They also showed slides about the rainforest issue including the IUCN's excellent "Green Earth or Dry Desert" series and spoke to all manner of groups such as conservation organisations, tribal groups, universities, schools, State and National Government officials, foresters and so on. John and Patrick gave up to eight presentations, press conferences, screenings a day and meanwhile studied the state of India's environment.

The article on the previous page was written in mid December shortly after they arrived in India. The quotes below are excerpts from an article written in Australia in April:

"India is screaming. The holy rivers are clogged with filth, the World Bank and other international institutions are wreaking unimagineable devastation on both the ecology and the poverty-stricken masses in the name of "development".

The rainforests have less than five years before they drop below a minimum critical size for their continued existence and evolution. The deserts are growing everywhere. The Rajasthan desert has breached the Aruvelli hills and the dunes are marching on Delhi.

The bonded labour is the microcosm of the World Bank strategy - In the face of illness or starvation, the dispossessed are forced to borrow money. The lenders are associated with the contractors who bid for the



World Bank projects. When they can't pay the interest on the loan, they go into bondage carrying the headloads of rocks for another dam, always in a far-off state where they (who generally cannot speak a national language) are kept behind barbed-wire like any Gulag or forced labour camp. The dam they build promises the same fate for a new group who will now lose their land.

Pollution is far worse than anywhere I have seen in the west. Tribals clean the fuel-rods out of the Tarapur nuclear power station by hand and, just as banned pesticides and medicines are dumped onto the third world, so every success in the first-world in cleaning up the environment results in the export of the pollution-generating industries.

Although the analysis of the Indian situation has been completed by the various concerned groups, there is, inexplicably, very little action. Those groups that are active are usually poorly co-ordinated and often unaware of each other's existence. Often the activists are illiterate tribal women who are only too aware of the consequences of, say, deforestation for it is they who will have to carry the headloads of wood when their traditional sources of fuel and fodder are usurped. It is they who have to carry the water up steep mountains when their spring dries up. And it is they who hug the trees when the tree-fellers arrive. My films and talks of rainforest action, civil disobedience, Gandhi's influence on western environmentalists, Greenpeace etc. met with a strong response and lots of interest.

Everywhere where an environment is threatened, (that is to say, every natural area in the country) subsistence farmers, largely tribals, are also threatened. In one proposed World Bank development in the Narmada Valley, more than 3,000 dams are proposed for this last well-forested watershed in the country. This will obliterate those forests and it is estimated, displace more than one million small, poverty-stricken farmers, mainly tribals. In India, it is impossible to separate ecological issues from issues of social justice and land-rights for indigenous peoples.

A few of those displaced receive financial "compensation" but as powerless, illiterate people without land, this is quickly stolen from them and they can then either swell the slums in some city or else find themselves as bonded labourers on some other project. By slums, I mean those unspeakable shacks of straw and cardboard and plastic which will, for example, house more than 3/4 of Bombay's population by the turn of the century. (1987 is the UN's International Year of Shelter for the Homeless!)

In spite of massive foreign aided plantation programmes, tree cover has fallen below 10%. One fifth of the remaining forests have been destroyed in the last decade and as a result the lands prone to flood have doubled to 400,000 sq. km. over the same period. Now its the turn of the mountain forests, the lowland forests having virtually disappeared, and as the soil follows the timber off the mountainsides, everywhere the hydrological cycle is being destroyed and the ancient perennial streams are replaced by an annual cycle of flood and drought.

So I have decided to go back to India in December to join Patrick who has stayed on with the films etc. We have received enough invitations to participate in ecology awareness camps for activists etc. to justify another 3 months there.

Patrick and I funded this last trip from our savings. However we would be most grateful for any financial assistance to enable us to continue our work in India next year."

In World Rainforest Report 6, we will include a more detailed article on the condition of the Indian rainforests.



## AUSTRALIA - FORESTS IN CRISIS

It's possible to understand how countries like Brazil, riddled with a foreign debt crisis, are tempted to sell their timber resources to try to stabilise their economic situation. Even so, environmentalists worldwide are calling on the Brazilian government to protect resources rightly regarded as being essential for the future of humankind.

Yet, in Australia, an advanced country without the same instability, a willy nilly sell out of timber resources continues, accompanied by a new upsurge of anti-environment feeling.

While opinion polls show over 80% feeling that the Australian Government should intervene to protect the Queensland rainforests, and stop chipping away at Tasmania's remaining forest cover, a reaction from powerful forces who control the timber industry is gaining the sway of several government ministers. Huge new newspaper campaigns by the timber industry play on the workers fear of loss of jobs to justify demands for unlocking of protected forest areas.

The new threat comes from the National Forest Industry Plan, a by product of the Ministry for Industry, Technology and Commerce. Forest Industry trade unions who support the government - sponsored union/business accord expect rapid approval from the Minister concerned, Sen. John Button. The thrust of the report is against "locking up" areas of natural forest, whose timber resources are seen as the key to an increased supply of timber necessary to deliver the GROWTH industry the unions and industry both want. In other words, the industry can flourish if national parks are reduced in size, state forests are cut quicker, and (at a lesser level of importance) new plantations of trees are set up. The report calls on the State governments of Australia to release areas of forest for industry use to ensure that the industry can achieve 15-20% GROWTH over the next 15 years.

### ASKING THE PROPER QUESTIONS

"No objective view of the modern world can ignore the destruction of its biotic diversity by a single species, homo sapiens. Panda Bears and Great White Whales are only symbols of this vast wave of extinction that now threatens millions of species. Tropical forests are now converted to permanent agriculture at the rate of 100,000 to 200,000 square kilometres each year. Concern for extinction is meaningless if not coupled to discussions of world population (now 4680 million with a net yearly increase 85 million), of birth control and abortion (in 1983, ca 35-45 million).

Equally important is the compulsive appetite of the over-developed countries (ODC's) for the worlds resources. Having largely destroyed their own ecosystems (e.g. Europe, prairies of the USA,) their uncontrolled greed contributes immensely to the destruction of the biota of the less developed countries.(LDC's). In 1981, investment by the ODC's in the LDC's was 63 million, the return on this investment, 137 million!. Economic development has become a cancer that feeds on biotic destruction. If growth of population and resource consumption continues, biogeographers will soon have nothing left to study, regardless of environmental protection laws. Ultimately, all wild lands, including national parks and reservas biosfericas, may all be put to use, unless we act now. Biogeographers have a responsibility to educate a bewildered public, confused by a flood of misinformation and nonsense put out by ecologically ignorant economists, politicians, religious leaders, and "do-gooders", whose solutions to world problems always seem to involve more "development", hence increased destruction of ecosystems. Biogeographers must support environmental organisations, as well as supply books, specimens, and scholarships to biologists in the

THIS REPORT WILL BE ADOPTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT UNLESS WE REACT NOW! THE FOREST INDUSTRY ARE UNABLE TO RECONCILE THEIR EXPANSION PLANS WITH THE REAL NEEDS OF FOREST CONSERVATION IN AUSTRALIA.

PLEASE! WRITE TO AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER BOB HAWKE NOW AND TELL HIM THAT ANY REPORT DEALING WITH AUSTRALIA'S FORESTS COMPILED WITHOUT INPUT OF THE CONSERVATION AND SCIENTIFIC SECTORS IS INADEQUATE.

### TOP RAINFOREST LOGGING

Recent projections of the impact on Downey Creek (Queensland, Australia) of "selective logging" techniques suggest that, for each 8 - 10 trees per hectare selectively logged, another 5400 are destroyed! The projections by Dailan Pugh are based on Foxwood Industry's count of an average of over 16,000 trees per hectare in this virgin forest area. The projections are based on 33% of the hectare being used up by logging roads, logging dumps, snig tracks, dieback, and by the actual felling. To quote Pugh, "by the completion of logging operations (at Downey Creek) some 3000 ha will be affected with the total deaths of around 16 million trees. Add to this the destruction of a multitude of vines, shrubs, ferns, herbs, orchids, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates and the true results of the desecration of our heritage can begin to be comprehended".

### SUSTAINABLE YIELD?

Meanwhile, In Atherton a district forester recently assured his audience that the oldest trees they were logging at Downey Creek were only 630 years old, doubtless while proclaiming the virtues of the Queensland government's amazing new time bending "sustainable yield" policy of replacing trees of this age in forty years. Logging of this last lowland virgin rainforest in Australia continues, at the hands of EMAIL, makers and distributors in Australia for such fridges as Kelvinator, Frigidaire and missile maker Westinghouse.

## DAINTREE

A little further north at Daintree, cars continue to break down and go off the side of the road which destroyed both rainforest and reef. In dry weather the dust reduces visibility to nil in some places, in wet weather sections of the road become impassable. Meanwhile at Rossville in the Greater Daintree area a tin mine and associated roadwork are causing further havoc of the sort not usually associated with environmentally sound forest management.

And to cap it all, we have received information of American investors with sufficient dollars and incentive to develop are able to buy prime North Queensland Coastal land adjacent to the Great Barrier reef and surrounded by National Park for \$5 a hectare. Now we begin to understand the road.

### SENATOR ARRESTED SHOTS FIRED NEAR M.P. FOREST INDUSTRY VIGILANTE GROUP ACTS

In the far south the national wilderness heritage of Tasmania will be chipped away to trade with Japan. The interests of the timber industry giants rule once more. At Farmhouse Creek, both State and Federal members of Parliament were among those arrested under new government laws restricting entry to forest areas. Police were called in after ugly incidents which saw State member of Parliament Bob Brown dragged from the path of a bulldozer by a vigilante group set up by the local timber industry: still bruised and battered a few days later, he had shots fired at him by a passing vehicle. Senator Sanders was among many people arrested when he attempted to walk through the forest in the area.

## PARLIAMENT HOUSE TIMBERS

Meanwhile, in the environmentally advanced state of NSW, rainforest logging continues for the new Australian parliament house. Much of this occurs on the edges of national parks about to be nominated to world heritage. It seems that a forests right to grow has not been a consideration. Protection of rainforests, already reduced to pitifully small areas, does not extend as far as allowing a forest ecosystem a natural growth cycle. This could be crucial to the survival of World Heritage systems.

A source close to the government inaction admits that the amount of logging for parliament house timbers will be enough for about one hundred such buildings.

Then, in justification for clear felling of emerging rainforest at Ewingar in Northern NSW, we hear that this gives more rapid regeneration. Rainforest, we were told, was an "aggressor" in some areas, conjuring up images of orchids waving axes, booyongs driving bulldozers and highly disciplined flights of nuclear armed parrots. Clearfelling in these areas allows for better regeneration of non-rainforest timbers and hardwoods required by the timber industry. This unfortunately also causes dieback in the world heritage areas and the global resource of which the government is so proud.

### GOVT. INACTION

Meanwhile, Federal Environment Minister Cohen has let all and sundry know that legislative action by his government to protect forest areas is not the answer to the problem. Instead, he intends to negotiate settlements with the Queensland and Tasmanian governments: in fact, he is now talking of a 200 million dollar deal with the Queensland government about the forests there. No details have been released, but they include long term phasing out of the Queensland timber industry, there is no need for massive compensation. With the present rate and type of destruction, the industry is phasing itself out.

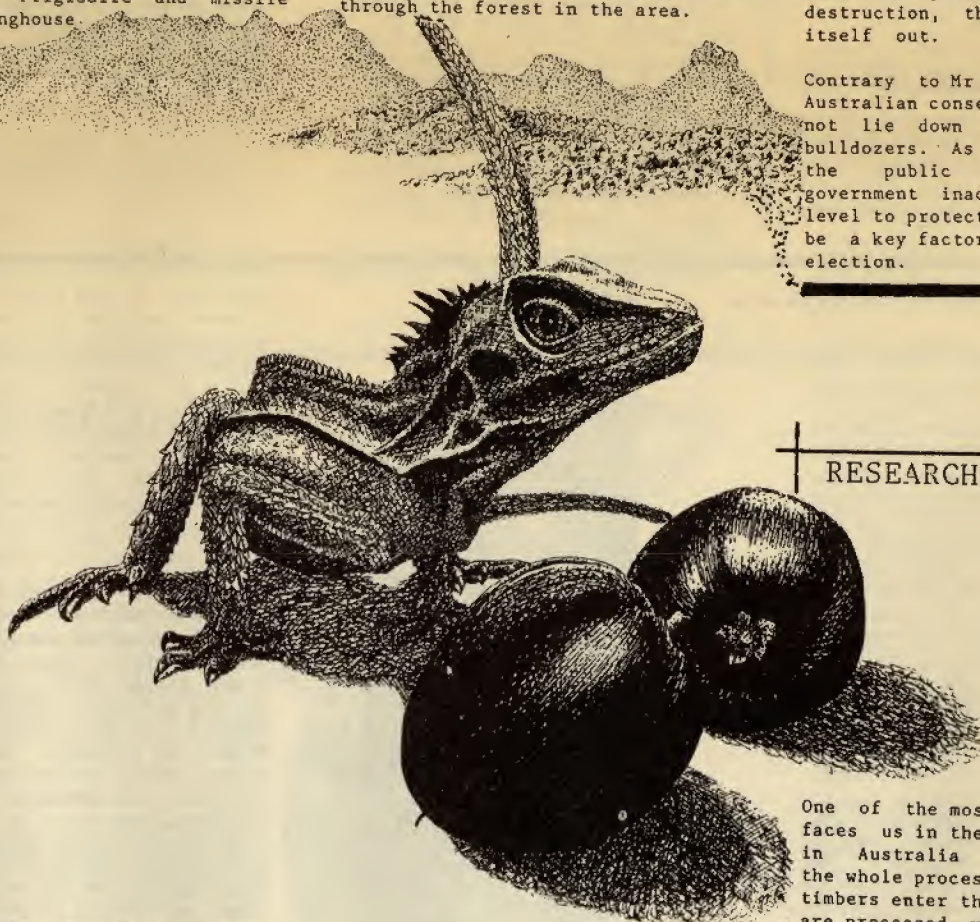
Contrary to Mr Cohen's wishes, the Australian conservation movement will not lie down except in front of bulldozers. As a growing sector of the public realises, Labour government inaction on a Federal level to protect the environment will be a key factor in the next federal election.

### RESEARCHERS NEEDED

One of the most urgent tasks that faces us in the rainforest campaign in Australia is to understand the whole process by which rainforest timbers enter this country, how they are processed, what they are used for and where the resulting products are sold.

Now that we have destroyed most of Australia's rainforests, and gone some way towards protecting the rest, we find that perhaps 3/4 of the rainforest timbers used in this country are imported. That is, we have not saved any rainforests, merely thrown the burden of destruction on the 'underdeveloped' countries. Every gain here is matched by a loss elsewhere. The only way to make a real change is to change the patterns of consumption, but before a consumer campaign can be launched a great deal of research is needed:

Where do the timbers come from? Where do they land in this country? Which companies are involved? Where are they processed? What end-products are manufactured? Where are they sold?



LDC's, because, though we all worry about global extinctions, only local efforts can ensure preservation of local ecosystems. Nothing is more important now than preservation of biotic diversity, a patrimonio which, though largely the responsibility of each country, is in fact a heritage to be treasured by all people of the earth. The politico - economic implications of this global view are profound."

Abstract of a paper by Hugh Iltis, Dept of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI 53706. entitled "THE EXTINCTION OF LIFE ON EARTH - ASKING THE PROPER QUESTIONS."

Presented at the Symposium on the Biogeography of Mesoamerica, Mexico.



US CONGRESS SUPPORTS WORLD BANK REFORM CAMPAIGN.

The World Bank Reform campaign, successful in delaying funding for the notorious Polonoreste project in Brazil (see World Rainforest Report No 4) has succeeded in having special legislation passed in the United States Congress to instruct US directors of multilateral development banks to support wide ranging environmental reforms.

As can be seen by the legislation, the reforms, if adopted, will considerably lessen the incidence of world bank sponsored devastation.

Support is now sought from Multilateral Development Bank directors in all countries to ensure the reforms are implemented.

PLEASE! Write now to the Treasurer of your own government, enclosing a copy of the US legislation, and urging your country to take similar steps, including special legislation if necessary, to ensure that future World Bank funding is more in line with ecological sanity.

In Australia, write to:

The Hon Paul Keating,  
Treasurer,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2601

In England, "The Ecologist" has followed up its first double issue on the World Bank with an equally indicting second double issue, entitled "TO EAT OR DEVELOP - THAT IS THE QUESTION", giving further evidence of World Bank sponsored debacles. A limited number of issues are available from the Rainforest Information Centre (P.O. Box 368, Lismore 2480 NSW Australia) or from "The Ecologist", Worthyvale Manor Farm, Camelford, Cornwall PL32 9TT, United Kingdom (cost 4 pounds sterling plus postage).

The RIC is looking for help building a World Bank campaign this year. We feel that reforming the World Bank and the other multilateral development banks is the single most important move we can make to protect rainforests all over the world along with many other natural systems and tribal cultures. The World Bank employs 3000 engineers and only 6 ecologists and so, engineering "solutions" ride roughshod over the future of the world.

Photostats of the following documents are available upon request at cost:

March 13 '86 Memorandum on Multilateral Development Banks, 8 pages.

B. Rich, "Multilateral Development Banks and Environmental Policy" 64pp.

Polonoreste Case History - 4 pp.

"Debacle in the Amazon" (Defenders Magazine, 3/85, 10 pp.

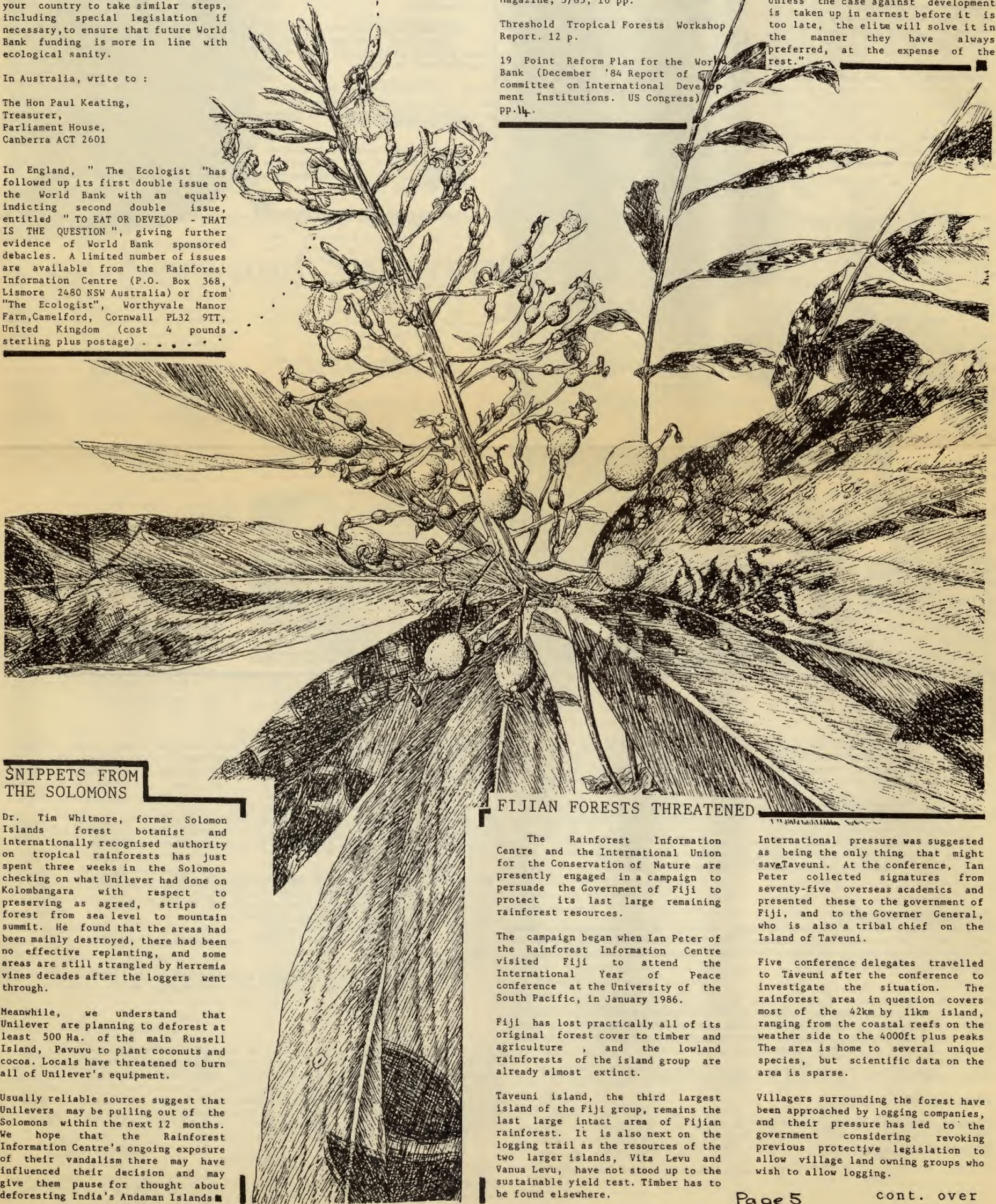
Threshold Tropical Forests Workshop Report. 12 p.

19 Point Reform Plan for the World Bank (December '84 Report of committee on International Development Institutions. US Congress) pp. 14.

The article "Deadly Development" by Claude Alvares of Goa (Development Forum Vol 9 #7 1983) is one of the best succinct accounts we have seen of the process of "development". A two page photostat is available from R.I.C.

"For these reasons, I am not arguing simply for zero growth, I am proposing negative growth. To return to Illichian imagery: if certain lifestyles are permitted to be maintained even at current levels, one requires war of a permanent kind. The advanced societies are exhausting their resources at breakneck speed, and are attempting, through multinational and international financial institutions, to control the resources of others. The poor however, will not give in this time without a fight.

This is my version of the Third World War. A war waged in peacetime without comparison, but involving the largest number of deaths and the largest number of soldiers without uniform. Unless the case against development is taken up in earnest before it is too late, the elite will solve it in the manner they have always preferred, at the expense of the rest."



SNIPPETS FROM THE SOLOMONS

Dr. Tim Whitmore, former Solomon Islands forest botanist and internationally recognised authority on tropical rainforests has just spent three weeks in the Solomons checking on what Unilever had done on Kolombangara with respect to preserving as agreed, strips of forest from sea level to mountain summit. He found that the areas had been mainly destroyed, there had been no effective replanting, and some areas are still strangled by Merremia vines decades after the loggers went through.

Meanwhile, we understand that Unilever are planning to deforest at least 500 Ha. of the main Russell Island, Pavuvu to plant coconuts and cocoa. Locals have threatened to burn all of Unilever's equipment.

Usually reliable sources suggest that Unilevers may be pulling out of the Solomons within the next 12 months. We hope that the Rainforest Information Centre's ongoing exposure of their vandalism there may have influenced their decision and may give them pause for thought about deforesting India's Andaman Islands.

FIJIAN FORESTS THREATENED

The Rainforest Information Centre and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature are presently engaged in a campaign to persuade the Government of Fiji to protect its last large remaining rainforest resources.

The campaign began when Ian Peter of the Rainforest Information Centre visited Fiji to attend the International Year of Peace conference at the University of the South Pacific, in January 1986.

Fiji has lost practically all of its original forest cover to timber and agriculture, and the lowland rainforests of the island group are already almost extinct.

Taveuni island, the third largest island of the Fiji group, remains the last large intact area of Fijian rainforest. It is also next on the logging trail as the resources of the two larger islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, have not stood up to the sustainable yield test. Timber has to be found elsewhere.

International pressure was suggested as being the only thing that might save Taveuni. At the conference, Ian Peter collected signatures from seventy-five overseas academics and presented these to the government of Fiji, and to the Governor General, who is also a tribal chief on the Island of Taveuni.

Five conference delegates travelled to Taveuni after the conference to investigate the situation. The rainforest area in question covers most of the 42km by 11km island, ranging from the coastal reefs on the weather side to the 4000ft plus peaks. The area is home to several unique species, but scientific data on the area is sparse.

Villagers surrounding the forest have been approached by logging companies, and their pressure has led to the government considering revoking previous protective legislation to allow village land owning groups who wish to allow logging.



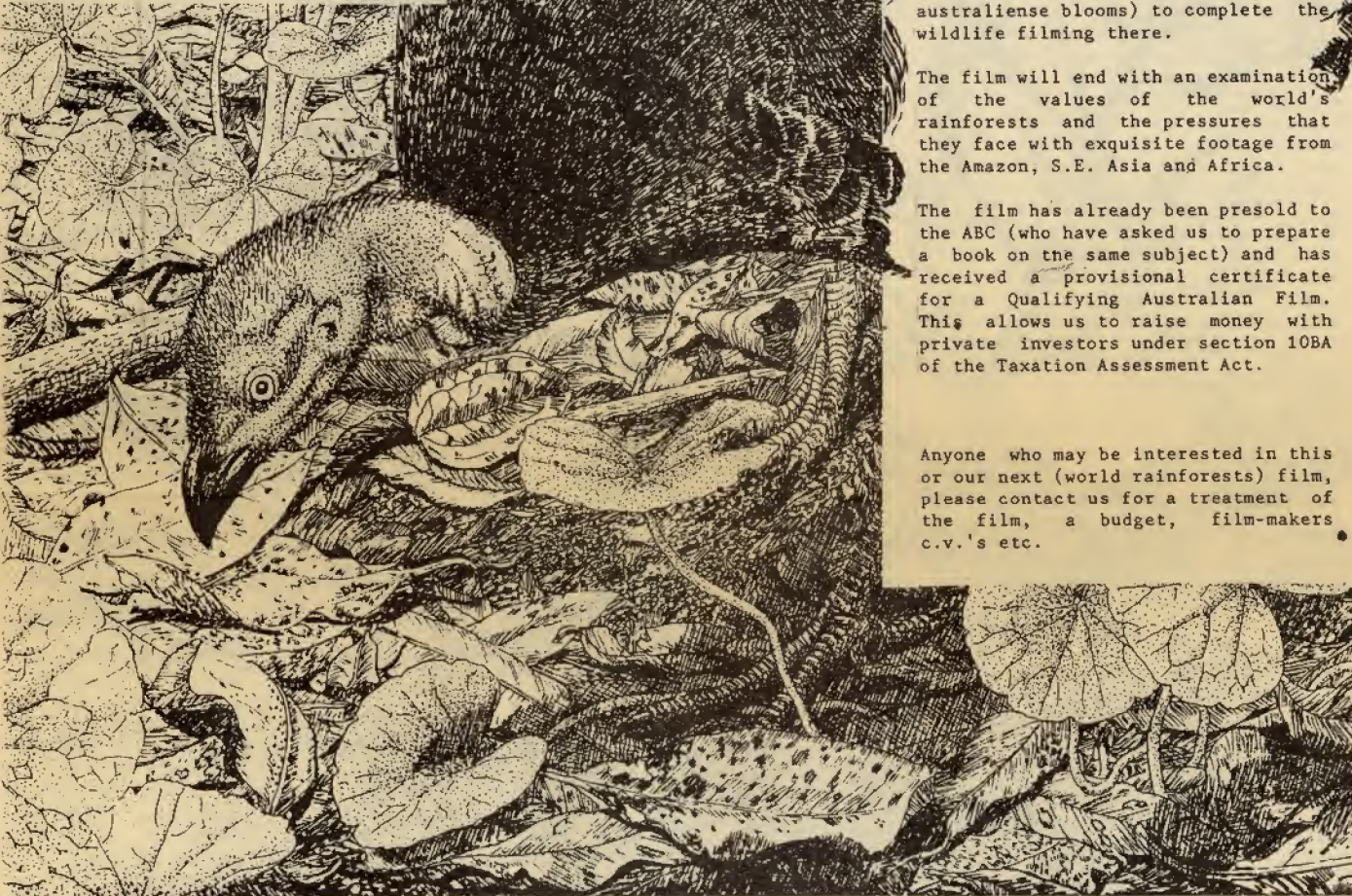
## Fiji continued

Much of the area is safe because it is too steep to log, but the remaining lowland forest is not.

The villagers are unaware of the impact of logging. In most villages, lifestyle is subsistence with cash crops of excess food, kava and copra being the small level of monetary trade. In many villages there is no media of any sort, no cars, no coca-cola, no electricity, and a lifestyle many of us can only dream of. Environmental education does not exist here, and the timber companies cannot be expected to adequately inform the villagers.

Fijian Forestry is basically Australian owned. Fiji Forest Industries and associated companies, which hold a virtual monopoly on the Fijian forest industry, are subsidiaries of an Australian company, Westralian Forest Industries.

Illegal logging seems to be rife in Fiji. We have received two reports of private land being logged without the owners consent on the island of Vanua Levu. In the first case, the logging company was found to be at fault, but no compensation was paid; in the second and more recent case, in the Nuku district, an area of 1000 ha is involved. Fijian Forestry is investigating the matter, but admits great difficulties in policing logging operations.



International pressure is needed now to ensure that Taveuni remains protected, and that the self sufficient lifestyles of Melanesian villages on the island do not suffer from another ill conceived development strategy.

Please write now to:

The Prime Minister of Fiji,  
Parliament House,  
Suva  
Fiji

and express your concern for the remaining tropical forests of Fiji.

## FILM

The best film we have ever seen about the defense of rainforest is Jeni Kendall and Paul Tait's "Give Trees a Chance", the story of Terania Creek (video's available from RIC for \$50).

Together with John Seed, Jeni and Paul have begun filming their sequel - a history of the actions in defense of the Australian rainforests from Terania Creek, through the Franklin River and up to the present campaign to protect Queensland's wet tropics.

Like "Give Trees a Chance", this new film (working title "Earth First") will be presented and narrated by Jack Thompson. The action footage will be interspersed with scientific material as to the value of rainforests and we have already filmed Professors Paul Erlich and Len Webb in the Lamington National Park, Norman Myers in Oxford and Professor Ellenberg in Germany. (It was Ellenberg who wrote to Premier Wran of NSW in 1981 asking him what we now ask Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen of Queensland:

"...Thus destroying or even reducing the Australian rainforest largely means killing an ecosystem unique on a global scale.

Would you like to enter into history as the personality and the government responsible for a crime of such extension?"

We hope to travel to north Queensland in late May (when the *Idiospermum australiense* blooms) to complete the wildlife filming there.

The film will end with an examination of the values of the world's rainforests and the pressures that they face with exquisite footage from the Amazon, S.E. Asia and Africa.

The film has already been presold to the ABC (who have asked us to prepare a book on the same subject) and has received a provisional certificate for a Qualifying Australian Film. This allows us to raise money with private investors under section 10BA of the Taxation Assessment Act.

Anyone who may be interested in this or our next (world rainforests) film, please contact us for a treatment of the film, a budget, film-makers c.v.'s etc.



## Researchers cont.

Armed with such information we would be able to begin to influence the situation. Friends of the Earth U.K. have done this work for their country (see FOE UK Gets Tough" on the front page of World Rainforest Report) and we must do it here.

At the San Francisco rainforest conference we decided to publicise the consumption of "3rd World" rainforest timber in the west by simultaneously blockading shipments entering San Francisco Harbour, the Thames, Sydney Harbour and perhaps elsewhere. But before such an action would be effective in Australia, we would need comprehensive information as to the destination of those timbers. Otherwise, the raised awareness would be futile, for we would still not know which products to avoid and which to use.

So we need research done, and have drafted a design for the needed research programme. This requires either a number of volunteers in major cities or a benefactor who will fund us to employ a researcher for 3 to 6 months. How about it friends? Time grows short.

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE FROM THE RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE  
P.O. BOX 368, LISMORE 2480 N.S.W. AUSTRALIA

THE RAINFORESTS ARE THE WOMB OF LIFE, home to half of the world's ten million species of plants and animals. They are presently being destroyed at the rate of 80 ha./minute and at the present rate, they will be annihilated within our lifetimes.

The RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE is a non-profit conservation organisation founded in 1980. Donations to the Rainforest Information Centre are tax-deductible within Australia by making them out to the Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Rd., Hawthorn 3122, and asking that they be used for the purposes of the Rainforest Information Centre.

### SOLOMON ISLANDS NEWSLETTER

For the last three years we have been working on a conservation/benign development project in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands Support Group publishes an occasional newsletter. Please send a donation if you would like to be on this mailing list.

During the NSW rainforest campaign, over 50 scientists from throughout the world wrote to NSW Premier Wran with reasons why the rainforests should be protected. He was so impressed by what he learned that, after establishing six new national parks around the best of the states rainforests, he has nominated them for world heritage status and written an introduction to our booklet.

"WORLD SCIENTISTS WRITE TO PREMIER WRAN ABOUT RAINFORESTS" \$3.00 & postage

### BEAUTIFUL POSTERS

Two exquisite line drawings by Dailan Pugh (including the one on the back cover of this World Rainforest Report) - 42cm. x 30 cm. price includes postage within Australia. Overseas postage extra)

.....\$3  
laminated in plastic.....\$4

### AUDIO TAPES

"THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY" 60 minute documentary tape with original music of the direct actions that led to preservation of NSW rainforests. "It is the emotion, the commitment, the inspiration that floors you....the music is superb". Earth First. \$7.00 & postage

### VIDEO TAPES

GIVE TREES A CHANCE is the film of the Terania Creek campaign to preserve rainforests in Australia. Narrated by Jack Thompson, and with superb music and on the spot protest action, it belongs in every activists collection. \$50

### RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE GREETING CARDS, drawings by Dailan

1. Small marsupials (Brown Antechinus)
2. Satin Bowerbird, male displaying to female
3. Leaf-tailed Gecko with Pothos vine.
4. Grey-headed flying fox

set of four, \$2, 60c each & postage

COMING SOON IN WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT NO 6 - A NEW RANGE OF POSTERS AND CARDS FEATURING THE LINE DRAWINGS OF ARTIST DAILAN PUGH.

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT is the journal of the world rainforest action network, and the best source of rainforest news around. In 1986 the publication will be expanded to include news from all the major rainforest campaigns, including editorial sections from UK, USA and Australia. Articles for the next edition should reach the Rainforest Information Centre, P.O. Box 368, Lismore 2480 NSW AUSTRALIA by May 15. Please send news of your campaigns!

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE for four issues - \$10 - Australia; \$15 elsewhere.

### SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Hundreds of copies of World Rainforest Report and other rainforest publications are sent out free to third world environment groups and individuals. If you can support this work, please do.



to encourage the sustainable use of tropical forests and not to fund damaging capital-investment projects like dams or intensive agriculture in tropical forest areas.

The United Kingdom is one of the world's biggest users of tropical hardwoods. In a recently published major report, "Timber!", an investigation into the UK tropical timber industry," (available from Friends of the Earth-UK), it is revealed that:

\* At least three British giant multinational corporations, Unilever, Inchape plc, and Harrissons and Crosfield, are actively involved in felling tropical forests in South-East Asia and West Africa. Both these regions have been hardest hit by the activities of the timber industry. By the end of the decade, all accessible rainforests in SE Asia are expected to be cleared.

\* Britain is the second largest importer of tropical hardwood, after France. She is also the second largest importer of plywood in the world, after the USA. 43% of her plywood imports in 1983 came from tropical countries.

\* Measured in terms of the value of hardwoods purchased, Britain is actually the most significant European importer, ranking third in the world, after the USA and Japan. UN Food and Agriculture Organization figures for 1981, reported that Britain imported \$442 million worth of tropical hardwoods, compared to Japan's \$1,994, and the USA's \$581 million.

For further details, contact:

Jonathon Porritt, Director, and Charles Secrett, Wildlife Campaigner Friends of the Earth 377 City Road, London, EC1, UK

11 million acres  
were laid to rest  
for this bed.

A monkey lost  
its nuts for this  
product.

Hardwood clearance  
**S A L E**  
11 million acres must  
go every year.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
Campaign to Save Tropical Rainforests

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
Campaign to Save Tropical Rainforests

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
Campaign to Save Tropical Rainforests

Samples of the stick-on ads used by FOE U.K.



46

The three-day rainforest conference sessions, held November 15 through 18, crackled with passion and energy as representatives from environmental and indigenous people's groups wrangled over the necessity of assuring tribal people's rights as an essential component in the preservation of tropical rainforests. Briefings and panel discussions were followed by intense idea sessions, where small groups emerged with hard-hitting proposals for action. Press conferences were held in San Francisco later that week, which garnered considerable mainstream media attention for rainforest issues.

"We're on a roll," said Randy Hayes, chief coordinator of the conference. "Everyone's fired up."

The Rainforest Action Network, which grew out of the conference, will be a clearinghouse of international rainforest news, and an umbrella for groups working on rainforest issues. The roster of participants reads like a Who's Who of international environmental and indigenous people's organizations. The Environmental Policy Institute, Earth First!, Friends of the Earth, the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, the Threshold Foundation, and the World Resources Institute are among the environmental groups. The South and Central American Indian Information Center, the International Indian Treaty Council, Hopi Traditionals, the Indigenous Women's

Network, Cultural Survival, and activists from Hawaii, Mexico, Kenya, Indonesia, and Malaysia represent indigenous people in the network.

The freewheeling mood of the conference matched the diverse backgrounds of the participants. Environmentalists and indigenous people realized that to work effectively, they must work together.

"One of the most important things to come out of this conference was solidifying links between environmental and indigenous people's groups, in industrialized countries as well as in rainforest areas," said Randy Hayes.

On the business of hard-edged tactics, Friends of the Earth-UK's Charles Secrett urged the group not to worry so much about raising money, but about the transfer of knowledge. FOE-UK's successful campaign against the importing of tropical hardwoods relied extensively on this "transfer of knowledge," in the form of an aggressive media campaign to educate British consumers. Secrett also warned against trying to convert people to the rainforest cause by spouting statistics.

Simon Muchiru, a Kenyan from the Environmental Liaison Centre in Nairobi, noted that the tropical rainforest holds our planet's future. "There are wild grains that grow there now that could be used for food in areas with poor soil. We in Africa know we possess a world heritage."

## News and Noteworthies...



### Ecologist Magazine

#### Condemns World Bank

On January 13, 1986, "Ecology" editor Edward Goldsmith met with Washington conservationists at Global Tomorrow Coalition to discuss the global ecological crisis, and the campaign to reform "development" institutions like the World Bank. Volume 15, No. 1/2 double issue of "The Ecologist" was devoted to demonstrating how the World Bank, by funding socially and environmentally destructive projects, is making an appreciable contribution to world impoverishment and famine. That issue was circulated to decision-makers throughout the world. In Washington, it helped trigger a Congressional Hearing. In the UK it elicited responses from both the Prime Minister's office and from that of Shirley Williams of the SDP. Both suggested meetings to discuss the issue raised.

The double issue of "The Ecologist" also contains eleven further articles by different students of environment and development from the US, Canada, the UK, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand, which support in different ways "The Ecologist's" stance on World Bank activities.

For more information, contact:

The Ecologist Worthyvale Manor Farm Camelford, Cornwall, PL32 9TT, UK

### Rainforest Activist Honored

Russell Mittermeier, director of the Primate Program at World Wildlife Fund, U.S., was listed among the honorees of "Esquire's" most significant achievers for 1985. The significance of this act lies in the mainstream national attention called to the issue of tropical forest protection. We need more.

### U.N. Predicts Code of Conduct for Multinationals

Peter Hansen, executive director of the United Nations Center on Transnational Corporations, predicted the U.N. Assembly will adopt a voluntary code of ethics, principally intended for multinational corporations operating within the Third World. He added, however, that the fate of the code may hinge on the U.S. and Brazil, currently occupying hard-line positions to get a code designed to benefit the multinational corporations and the countries in which they invest. (So what else is new?)

The code would propose standards of conduct for both parties. For multinationals, the draft includes guidelines for avoidance of corruption, protection of human rights, and equitable "transfer pricing" among subsidiaries that buy and sell to each other; for host countries, the draft provides guidelines on such matters as the freedom of companies to transfer funds to their homelands and compensation arrangements when privately owned companies are nationalized. Among those in conflict with the proposed code, is the Soviet Union, which insists on exempting countries owned by socialist-bloc nations. (Is this new?)

Many non-industrialized countries, along with many socialist countries remain "formally committed" to a legally binding code, while industrialized countries say a voluntary and legally nonbinding code is a "nonnegotiable position."



### Sarawak Logging Study

A research paper on the logging industry in the Seventh Division of Sarawak has been prepared by Pertubuhan Perkhidmatan Kristian, in Malaysia. Requests for copies should be addressed to:

Wong Meng Chuo, Coordinator Pertubuhan Perkhidmatan Kristian P.O. Box 244 Sibu, Sarawak Malaysia

### Forest Destroyed for Unneeded Iron Ore

In yet another highly suspect "development" project, the government-controlled Companhia do Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), with an army of 25,000 workers has built a town site on top of a "mountain of Iron" rising from the rainforest. The town is complete with schools, country club, shopping center, a hospital, and housing for 7,500 people. Outside of the new town is an air strip large enough to land Boeing 707s. The company borrowed \$1.6 million internationally to help finance the total \$4.1 billion cost of destruction of the Carajas mountain range. The mine, which is well on the way to becoming the World's largest open-pit iron ore mine, reputedly has enough ore to last for at least 300 years. The problem is that with the world market already wallowing in an iron glut (many companies in the US and Canada have had to shut down operations because they can't sell the surplus ore), there is no way that either the Brazilian government or CVRD can justify such a development move. Perhaps the real reason for the venture lies in the construction of the Carajas-Sao Luis railroad line, which will link the new mining town with a new deep-water port 556 miles to the east on the Atlantic coast. This is substantiated in part, by the Brazilians' insistence on spending \$1.7 billion, half the total project budget, on the railroad. There is good reason to believe that the mining operation thinly masks a regional development project. Private companies have begun to build large scale agricultural projects, in anticipation of the railroad's completion, and the resultant access to the larger market.

As could be expected, the development is taking place at the expense of ecologically fragile virgin rainforest. The Carajas mountain range is located between the Toncantins and Xingu rivers in the southeastern Amazon Basin, in an area previously inhabited by amazonian Indians. As part of its PR plan, CVRD claims to be providing FUNAI (the Brazilian governmental Indian agency) with \$13.6 million for the Indians within the Carajas area.

"The mining company has been good to us," says Kayapo Indian chief Bemotte, whose people live 50 miles from the Carajas site. "In the last three years

they have given us a school, a clinic, and a two-way radio to call the company helicopter when we have an emergency like someone very sick. They also help us when white men invade our land." While grateful for services rendered by the mining giant, he insists nonetheless, that more than anything else, the Indians just want to be left alone.



### Amazonian Indians Speak Out

"My name is Ailton Krenak. I am from the Union Of Indigenous Nations. This morning here at the commission, and now in the afternoon, I've heard the evidence on Cubatao, about the industrialized areas. All of the statements are about guaranteeing the possibility for people to survive. There's very little talk about life, and much more about survival. It is important to recall the following: that when the possibility of life stops, the possibility of survival starts. There are people here in Brazil, particularly in Amazonia, that still live, and these people do not want to end up at the level of survival. These peoples do not want to have their lives degraded to the point of asking how much carbon dioxide and how much oxygen they can breathe. These peoples want a full life, a life with dignity, and not the life of animals, the life of excluded beings. We want the possibility of life for the indigenous peoples of Amazonia, for the riverine populations, and especially for our comrades the seringueiros who are conscious that to defend the tropical forest, to defend the environment in which they live, is to rescue the right of human beings to continue living there. They know this above all from the education they have had from the indigenous peoples, and from nature itself. Thank you very much."

Speech delivered at World Commission on Environment and Development, Sao Paulo, Oct. 28, 1985.

### New Group Forms

Wilderness International, a recently formed international group in Hobart, Tasmania, to monitor, publicize, and work against the destruction of all kinds of wilderness, worldwide, is reaching out. They are interested in collaboration with other groups. Let them hear from you:

Joe Friend, Bob Brown Wilderness International 130 Davey Street Hobart 700, Tasmania AUSTRALIA



# News and Noteworthies..

Page 8.

## Mayan Homeland

### Going Fast

For the last forty years, 84-year old Gertrude Blom has been trying to get Mexico and the world to wake up and pay attention to the destruction of North America's last great stretch of rain forest, and the homeland of the Lacandon Maya. When Blom first visited the Lacandon rainforest in Chiapas in 1943, it covered 5,200 square miles, and was populated by 2,000 people. Today, under the combined pressures of loggers, ranchers, and new settlers, the last 2,400 acres are rapidly disappearing, and the area is crowded with 200,000 inhabitants. In her book, "Gertrude Blom: Bearing Witness" (University of North Carolina Press, 1984), she writes:

"The jungle is burning, the great trees are being destroyed, and the land is enveloped in a sinister darkness. No one cares...They don't stop for a moment to think...that when the rains come, there won't be any plants or trees to stop the water's fury and the rivers will flood the fields and meadows, washing even the houses away by the dark, muddy water, and the bluish-green crystalline rivers will be only a memory." "If we cannot stop the destruction, in five years the forest will be gone," she says.

For more information:  
Gertrude Blom Na Bolom San Cristobal de las Casas Mexico

## International Youth Federation

Jan Voordouw, European coordinator for IYF, mentioned a travelling rainforest program presented by ten members in Panama. IYF's journal, Taraxacum, covers it in the 3/85 issue, with Panamanian contact address. Taraxacum can be obtained through:

Jan Voordouw IYF-European Coordinator Dorpsstraat 139 6871 AG Renkum, NETHERLANDS

## Environmental Liaison Center

The Environmental Liaison Centre (ELC), established in 1974, is part of the global effort to protect the Earth's ecosystems for human health and well being; to promote sustainable utilization and equitable distribution of resources; and to improve human settlements.

Major Objectives \* to strengthen NGOs working in the field of environment and development and connected issues, particularly in the "Third World," through the provision of information, financial assistance, and training. \* to build links between NGOs. \* to facilitate NGO input into and support for the UNEP and UNCHS and other inter-governmental organizations.

The center has 231 member organizations in 66 countries and maintains contact with 7,000 NGOs. ELC conducts surveys on a regular basis, entering the information into the ELC NGO Data System. The Data System also includes a collection of periodicals, additional NGO publications, and topical files on environment and development. In addition, ELC manages a Small Grants Fund for Third World NGOs, publishes two bi-monthly journals, "Ecoforum," and "News Alert," and reports and directories of NGOs in different areas of environmental concern. More recent directories include Renewable Energy and Fuelwood in Africa, Water and Sanitation, and NGO efforts to combat arid lands and desertification. ELC plans to focus on four issue areas during 1985-88: ISSUE ELC CONTACT

Deforestation/Afforestation - Simon Muchiru  
Water Management - Bernard Puget/Henri Roggeri  
Energy - Maurice Bernard  
Sustainable Agriculture - Luis Malaret

ELC member organizations receive ECOFORUM and NEWS ALERT free, as may local developing country NGOs upon application in writing. All others (international organizations, industrialized country NGOs, and individuals) can subscribe to both for a total of US \$30.00 per annum, payable to ELC by international money order in US dollars. Reduced rates available to Kenya-based subscribers.

ENVIRONMENTAL LIAISON CENTRE P.O. BOX 72461, NAIROBI, KENYA TELEX: 23240 ENVICENTE



Simon Muchiru

### Workshop:

#### WORKSHOP: CAN GAIA SURVIVE WITHOUT HER FORESTS?

Eco-Politics in Action to Save the Rainforests: An evening and one day conference will be held at the New York Open Center, 83 Spring Street, NY, NY 10012. (212) 219-2527. The date for the conference is Friday, April 11th at 7:30pm, and Saturday, April 12th, 10AM to 6PM. The cost is \$60.00. Speakers will include:

Catherine Caufield, Author of "In the Rainforest" Jim George, Threshold Foundation Randy Hayes, Rainforest Action Network Brent Blackwelder, Environmental Policy Institute

### Ecotourism!

Globotour Brasil operates Amazonian tours to heighten tourists' awareness of the unique qualities of the rainforest, and the urgency of its rescue. Globotour also works closely with the World Wildlife Fund US, donating \$50.00 per tourist specifically for application in Brazil. They are also working with Brazil's new government to develop an infrastructure capable of response to the problem of deforestation. For more information:

Doug and Janice Trent Globotour of Brasil Rua Rio de Janeiro, 1109 Centro 30.000 Belo Horizonte, M.G. BRASIL

## National Conference of Rubber Tappers

National Conference on Rubber Tappers-Brasilia, October 11-17, 1985 Report by Steve Schwartzman. "For the first time, a grassroots tropical forest conservation initiative has emerged from Amazonia, with the seringueiros' proposal of "extractive reserves"-protected areas modelled on indigenous reserves to be sustainably managed by the seringueiros." This 20 page report is well worth reading, and can be obtained by writing to Steve:

Steve Schwartzman 3136 17th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20010, USA

## Center for

## Conservation Biology

### Center for Conservation Biology

The Second Conference on Conservation Biology, at Ann Arbor, Michigan USA, was held recently, and attended by an estimated 200 researchers with a refreshing commitment to action. Jared Diamond, professor of surgery at the University of California, in Los Angeles, called for the "trappings" of a respectable discipline, including a specific grant panel at the National Science Foundation. "that may mean cutting space research," he said, "but the stars will be there in 15 years, while the rainforests may not." More information on the society and Center for Conservation Biology can be obtained from:

Anne Erlich and Bruce Wilcox Center for Conservation Biology Dept. of Biological Sciences, Stanford Univ. Stanford, CA 94305, USA

### More Good Reading...

Hugh H. Iltis, Botany professor and herbarium director at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison, and long-time rainforest advocate has written a number of excellent articles on rainforest preservation, and extinction. "Tropical Forests — What Will Be Their Fate?", from "Environment" (Vol. 25, No.10, December, 1983) is well worth reading if you have not already seen it.

Professor Hugh H. Iltis Botany Department, Birge Hall University of Wisconsin Madison, WI 53706

